

CONFIDENTIAL

TEXT OF FURTHER MESSAGE FROM HIS MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT
IN THE UNITED KINGDOM TO THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT ON THE
SCHUMAN PLAN

His Majesty's Government have received the French Government's Memorandum of 25th May about the integration of European Coal and steel production and the communiqué enclosed with it, which the French Government proposes to issue next week. The French Government will in the meantime have received Mr. Bevin's message of 25th May and will understand from it that it would not be possible for His Majesty's Government to subscribe to the communiqué, which it is intended to issue, or accept in advance the essential principles and commitments contained in the French communiqué of the 9th May.

But His Majesty's Government wish to reiterate their desire to participate in any discussions which take place in the manner suggested in Mr. Bevin's message, and generally to adopt a positive attitude towards the French proposals. It should however be realised that if the French Government intend to insist on a commitment to pool resources and set up an authority with certain sovereign powers as prior condition to joining in the talks, His Majesty's Government would reluctantly be unable to accept such a condition. His Majesty's Government would greatly regret such an outcome.

His Majesty's Government appreciate that it would not now be possible to confine the conversations to a purely Franco-German basis if some of the Governments which have been approached wished to participate on the same basis as the German Federal Government and further that it might be necessary to consult such Governments before agreeing to participation in the discussions of other Governments on a different basis.

As regards procedure, when the communiqué which the French Government had proposed is issued, His Majesty's Government will issue a communiqué setting out their attitude. Alternatively, the French Government may consider that it would be preferable for a single communiqué to be issued in which the attitude of the respective Governments would be made clear.

British Embassy
Brussels

30th May, 1950